

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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Megan Durham 202/343-5634

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE ANNOUNCES CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT

The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced changes of assignment for a number of the agency's top managers. The changes affect the Service's fishery and wildlife resources, planning and budget, environment, and research programs and its regional office in Denver.

Galen Buterbaugh, 48, who has been associate director for fishery resources since 1979, has been named regional director of the Service's regional office in Denver. In this position, he will supervise Fish and Wildlife Service activities and offices in Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming.

A native of Walnut Grove, Minnesota, Buterbaugh holds a B.S. in fish and wildlife management from the University of Minnesota. He joined the Service in 1960 and has served at six national fish hatcheries and in several responsible positions in the fisheries program at the Portland regional office, the Minneapolis regional office, and in Washington, D.C.

The present regional director in Denver, Don W. Minnich, age 44, will come to Washington as deputy associate director - wildlife resources. In this position, he will oversee the Service's wildlife management activities, including migratory birds, law enforcement, depredation control, and aircraft management. Before assuming the job of regional director in December 1979, Minnich was the assistant director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources. A native of Ardmore, Oklahoma, Minnich graduated from Colorado State University with a B.S. in biology and wildlife management.

Harold J. O'Connor, 49, who has been deputy associate director for federal assistance since 1974, has been named associate director for environment. In this position he will be responsible for the Fish and Wildlife Service's habitat preservation program, providing technical information and assistance to other federal agencies and to industry to minimize effects of energy and water development on wildlife, and for the national wetlands inventory. O'Connor formerly served as associate regional director of the Albuquerque regional office and as refuge manager at seven national wildlife refuges. He graduated with a B.A. in biology from the University of Buffalo.

Richard N. Smith, 48, has been named associate director for research. In this position, he will supervise field investigations and research at 11 major fish and wildlife laboratories. Smith served as deputy associate director for research from 1979 to 1981, when he was named acting associate director. He joined the Service in 1962 and has held a number of positions in the animal damage control and research programs. He is from Boston, Massachusetts, and holds a B.S. in wildlife management from the University of Maine as well as graduate degrees from the University of Massachusetts and American University.

John D. Buffington, 40, will become the deputy associate director for research. Since 1980 he has been chief of the Service's Office of Biological Services. A native of Jersey City, New Jersey, he holds a B.S. in biology from St. Peter's College, and an M.S. and a Ph.D. in animal ecology from the University of Illinois. He previously served on the faculty of Illinois State University, worked for Argonne National Laboratory, and was senior staff member for environmental data and monitoring with the Council on Environmental Quality.

Adam A. (Dan) Sokoloski, 43, who has been assistant director for planning and budget since July 1980, has taken a position as staff assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Interior for Land and Water Resources, where he will be involved in analysis and management of policies and issues for the Bureaus of Land Management and Reclamation. Sokoloski joined the Service in 1975 as chief of the division of program plans, later becoming the assistant director for planning and budget. A native of South Deerfield, Massachusetts, he holds a B.A. from Middlebury College, an M.S. from Purdue University, and a Ph.D. from Oregon State University.

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